

2008-2009 ESEA/NCLB Consolidated Application
Consortia and/or System Commitment

[Check existing consortia/system membership](#)

Program Specific Information

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE I-A](#)

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE II-A](#)

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE II-D](#)

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE III-A](#)

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE IV-A](#)

[ESEA/NCLB TITLE V-A](#)

[Transferability Considerations](#)

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All Authorized Representatives are required to provide an annual written commitment of the intent of the district to serve as prime applicant, system member, and/or consortia member to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Failure to provide such commitment will default the system to a single legal entity district application for the affected project year. A designation established by written commitment or default is binding for the project year.

System - An elementary and a high school district governed by a combined school board.

Consortium – A group of local education agencies (nonpublic LEAs may be included) or educational service agencies that group together in order to establish, operate or improve local education or prevention programs. A consortium must be represented by a "prime applicant district" (which must be a public school legal entity.)

Prime Applicant – The prime applicant is the school district that files an application for a grant, receives and manages program funds and ensures funds are audited in accordance with federal requirements.

Determinations regarding systems, member districts and prime applicants must be made before the OPI can post the applications on E-Grants. The prime applicant application will contain the originating district and consortia/system members' allocations for the affected title(s).

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Your existing consortia or system member list can be accessed within the most current version of your E-Grant ESEA/NCLB Consolidated application using the following steps:

1. Open the latest approved version of your ESEA/NCLB application
2. Click the Funding Tab
3. The Allocation Page opens automatically
4. Locate the Administrative Agent Row under the Multi-District Section
5. Click on the blue 7-digit number to reveal consortia or system members. If no blue numbers are present, you are not currently a member with another district.

System and Consortiums: General Information

(a) **ESEA TITLE I-A Improving Basic Programs:**

- An eligible elementary district or an eligible high school district may apply separately for Title I-A.
- An elementary district and a high school district governed by a combined school board (i.e., a "school system") may share a Title I-A project if both districts are Title I-A eligible.
- If one of the districts in a system is not eligible for Title I-A, the districts cannot share a Title I-A project and budget, and schools from the ineligible district cannot be served.
- If an elementary district and a high school district governed by a combined school board are both eligible for a Title I-A project and choose to share a project with a single budget, all schools in the system will be part of the Targeting process used to select and fund eligible attendance centers (schools). If the system enrollment is over 1,000 or there is more than one school per grade span, all the ranking requirements must be observed. This means the combined Title I-A allocation (the elementary amount and the high school amount) will be distributed with all schools from both districts in one pool. Therefore, where a high school has in the past automatically received a school level allocation that may not necessarily happen under this new method. One way to ensure there will be funding for at least one school at the high school level would be to target by grade span. However, any schools in the system with 75 percent or greater poverty must be served first, regardless of grade span.
- If the school system is concerned that there may not be a school served at the high school level, the districts may opt for district-wide targeting (which will now happen K-12 in this scenario if a shared project with one budget is chosen). A system can choose other targeting techniques as well, such as using a feeder pattern for poverty data. Details on all of the requirements, options, and techniques for Targeting are provided in instructions on the Title I-A Basic application on E-grants.
- Systems that have an enrollment under 1,000 (K-12) or only one school per grade span and that choose to share a Title I-A project have complete discretion over the schools to be served and the amount of funding made available to each school. The system may fill in whatever amounts it deems appropriate on the Targeting Step 4 page of the E-grants application.

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- (b) ESEA TITLE II-A Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund:
- An elementary district or a high school district may apply separately for Title II-A.
 - An elementary district and a high school district governed by a combined school board (i.e., a "school system") may also share a Title II-A project if both districts are eligible.
- (c) ESEA TITLE II-D Educational Technology
- An eligible elementary district or an eligible high school district may apply separately for Title II-D.
 - An elementary district and a high school district governed by a combined school board (i.e., a "school system") may share a Title II-D project if both districts are eligible.
 - Districts may join a consortium for Title II-D.
- (d) ESEA TITLE III-A English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement
- Districts with allocations of \$10,000 or more may apply separately for Title III-A.
 - Districts with allocations less than \$10,000 must join a consortium to apply for the program funds.
- (e) ESEA TITLE IV-A Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
- An elementary district or a high school district may apply separately for Title IV-A.
 - An elementary district and a high school district governed by a combined school board (i.e., a "school system") may share a Title IV-A project.
 - Districts may join a consortium for Title IV-A.
- (f) ESEA TITLE V-A Innovative Programs
- An elementary district or a high school district may apply separately for Title V-A.
 - An elementary district and high school district governed by a combined school board (i.e., a "school system") may share a Title V-A project if both districts are eligible.

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Impacts to Consider for NCLB Consolidated Applications

Transferability Considerations

- If an elementary and a high school district governed by a combined school board have different eligibility to transfer funds under ESEA Title VI (Transferability or REAP-Flex) regulations, the combined project will allow the consolidated application to apply the lower of the percentages. For example, if the elementary is eligible to transfer 100 percent and the high school is eligible to transfer 30 percent, the application will allow up to 30 percent to be transferred among the allowable ESEA funds on the application.
- If a consortium has one or more member districts that are outside the school system, the funds in a consortium cannot be transferred to other ESEA/NCLB Title programs.

Indirect Cost Rate Consideration

- The amount allowed to be charged to a federal grant based on application of an approved indirect cost rate.
- The approved indirect cost rate of the prime applicant is effective for the entire program year for an application submitted on behalf of a system.
- Districts must apply for indirect cost rates and secure approval from the OPI to ensure that the rate is included for budgeting on the E-Grants ESEA/NCLB applications. Current rates can be found at <http://www.opi.mt.gov/SchoolFinance/Links2.html>

The completed 2008-2009 ESEA/NCLB System/Consortium Commitment Form, signed and dated by the authorized representative, must be returned to the OPI following directions on the form.

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